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**1995/07/28**

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PAGE 01 OF 02 STATE 180590 280749Z 024319 5047885  
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL FUKUOKA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU PRIORITY

AMCONSUL NAGOYA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL NAHA PRIORITY

NSC WASHDC PRIORITY 0000

AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE PRIORITY

AMCONSUL SAPPORO PRIORITY

AMCONSUL SHANGHAI PRIORITY

AMCONSUL SHENYANG PRIORITY

USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 0000

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI PRIORITY

USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

CHJUSMAG SEOUL KS PRIORITY

COMUSKOREA SEOUL KS//CC/BJ/CJ/EJ/PAJ/SJS// PRIORITY

SACINCCUNC KS PRIORITY

USCINCCUNC SEOUL KS PRIORITY

SECDEF WASHDC//USDP PRIORITY

JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

HQ USSPACECOM PETERSON AFB CO//POLAD// PRIORITY

USMISSION USVIENNA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 180590

USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR CYNKIN YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR FERGIN

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PREL OPRC XE US

SUBJECT: JULY 27 PRESS GUIDANCE FOR THE EAP REGION

ALL POSTS -- ALSO FOR USIS

SECDEF -- ALSO FOR OASD/PA

USCINCPAC FOR EPA SALMON

USVIENNA FOR UNVIE

PARIS FOR ZEYA

BEIJING -- PASS CHENGDU

1. INDEX

--FREEDOM HOUSE (PARA 2)

--CHINA: UPDATE ON HARRY WU (PARAS 3-4)

--JAPAN: POW LAWSUIT (PARAS 5-6)

--SINGAPORE: 1HT LIBEL TRIAL (PARAS 5 AND 7)

2. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS ISSUED BY THE STATE  
DEPARTMENT ON 7/27/95.STATE 180590 280749Z 024319 5047885  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
OFFICE OF THE SPOKESMAN  
JULY 27, 1995

STATEMENT BY NICHOLAS BURNS, SPOKESMAN

## FREEDOM HOUSE

THE UNITED STATES SUCCEEDED ON JULY 27 IN WINNING CONSULTATIVE STATUS FOR THE U.S.-BASED NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION, FREEDOM HOUSE, WITH THE U.N. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC), OVERTURNING AN EARLIER NEGATIVE DECISION BY A SUBSIDIARY COMMITTEE. CUBA AND CHINA LED THE OPPOSITION TO FREEDOM HOUSE. THE STATES OPPOSING THE ACCREDITATION OBJECTED TO FREEDOM HOUSE BECAUSE OF ITS CRITICISMS OF THOSE COUNTRIES ON THE ISSUES OF DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS. THE FINAL VOTE WAS 31 IN FAVOR OF ACCREDITING FREEDOM HOUSE, 11 OPPOSED, AND 10 ABSTAINED.

3. THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED ON 7/27/95. SPOKESMAN NICHOLAS BURNS USED THE FIRST ANSWER AT THE PRESS BRIEFING THAT DAY. THE REMAINDER MAY BE USED ON AN IF ASKED BASIS.

4. CHINA: UPDATE ON HARRY WU

Q. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT REPORTS THAT HARRY WU HAS CONFESSED TO FALSIFYING INFORMATION IN HIS TELEVISION

DOCUMENTARIES?

A. WE HAVE ONLY SEEN PRESS REPORTS AND BROADCASTS OF EXCERPTS OF A VIDEOTAPE ABOUT THIS.

-- AT THIS TIME, WE DO NOT YET HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION TO COMMENT FURTHER ON THE TAPE.

-- AS TO CONFESSION, ALL WE HAVE SEEN ARE PRESS REPORTS.

-- WE STILL BELIEVE HE SHOULD BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY.

-- NATURALLY, WE CONTINUE TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT MR. WU'S WELFARE.

-- WE CONTINUE TO PRESS TO SEE MR. WU IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 35 OF THE U.S.-CHINA CONSULAR CONVENTION WHICH PROVIDES FOR MONTHLY CONSULAR ACCESS.

-- SINCE MR. WU'S DETENTION, WE HAVE RAISED AND WILL CONTINUE TO RAISE HIS CASE WITH CHINESE AUTHORITIES.

IF ASKED ONLY:

Q. DO WE BELIEVE THE ALLEGED CONFESSION WAS VOLUNTARY?

A. AGAIN, WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION TO COMMENT.

Q. WHAT IS MR. WU'S LEGAL STATUS AT THIS TIME?

A. THE CASE REMAINS IN THE INVESTIGATION STAGE.

5. THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCES, ALSO PREPARED ON 7/27/95, WERE NOT USED AT THE BRIEFING. POSTS MAY DRAW FROM THEM ON AN IF ASKED BASIS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
IS/FC/CDR V/H Date: NOV 29 1990

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PAGE 02 OF 02 STATE 180590 280749Z  
6. JAPAN: POW LAWSUIT

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Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE SUIT FILED BY FIVE ALLIED POW'S FROM WWII?

A. THE CHARGE AT OUR EMBASSY IN TOKYO MET WITH SOME OF THE AMERICANS INVOLVED IN THE SUIT EARLIER THIS WEEK. SIMILARLY, DEPARTMENT OFFICERS HAVE TALKED WITH SOME OF THESE FORMER POW'S IN THE PAST.

-- WE ARE VERY SYMPATHETIC TO THE TERRIBLE SUFFERING EXPERIENCED BY THESE FORMER POW'S AND CIVILIAN INTERNEES. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT THINK IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO COMMENT ON AN ON-GOING LEGAL ACTION.

NOTE TO THE BRIEFER:

-- UNDER THE TREATY OF PEACE OF SEPTEMBER 8, 1951, JAPAN GAVE THE WWII ALLIES, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, THE RIGHT TO SEIZE AND DISPOSE OF JAPANESE ASSETS IN ORDER TO SATISFY THEIR WAR CLAIMS AS WELL AS THOSE OF THEIR CITIZENS. IN

RETURN, THE ALLIED POWERS -- INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES -- WAIVED ANY RIGHT TO FURTHER REPARATIONS OR CLAIMS. ACCORDINGLY, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS CONSTRAINED FROM REQUESTING JAPANESE GOVERNMENT REPARATIONS FOR AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO WERE HELD BY THE JAPANESE AS PRISONERS OF WAR.

-- IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WAR CLAIMS ACT OF 1948, AS AMENDED, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED AND ADMINISTERED TEN PRISONER OF WAR AND CIVILIAN INTERNEE COMPENSATION PROGRAMS, AS WELL AS FOUR WAR DAMAGE AND LOSS PROGRAMS. ALL PAYMENTS UNDER THOSE PROGRAMS RELATING TO CLAIMS AGAINST JAPAN DURING WORLD WAR II WERE MADE FROM THE LIQUIDATION OF JAPANESE ASSETS BLOCKED AND VESTED IN THE UNITED STATES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TRADING WITH THE ENEMY ACT, RATHER THAN FROM MONIES APPROPRIATED FROM THE GENERAL REVENUES OF THE UNITED STATES. THE DEADLINES FOR FILING CLAIMS UNDER EACH OF THESE PROGRAMS EXPIRED SEVERAL YEARS AGO. THE CLAIMS PROGRAMS ARE NOW COMPLETE AND RECOVERY UNDER THEM IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE.

7. SINGAPORE: 1HT LIBEL TRIAL

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE DECISION BY A SINGAPORE COURT TO ORDER THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE TO PAY LIBEL DAMAGES OF USD 678,000 TO THE COUNTRY'S THREE TOP LEADERS?

A. THE JUDGMENT GROWS OUT OF A PERSONAL LIBEL SUIT

BROUGHT AGAINST THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE BY SENIOR MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW, HIS SON, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER B.G. LEE, AND PRIME MINISTER GOH. THE SUIT RESULTS FROM AN AUGUST 2, 1994 OPINION PIECE IN THE 1HT BY PHILIP BOWRING ENTITLED "THE CLAIMS ABOUT 'ASIAN' VALUES DON'T USUALLY BEAR SCRUTINY."

-- I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FOR YOU REGARDING THE SPECIFIC LEGAL ISSUES OF THIS CASE.

-- HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IS A UNIVERSAL RIGHT OF ALL PEOPLE, REGARDLESS OF THEIR NATIONALITY OR CULTURE

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